

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 16, 2014**

**Budget Committee Members Present**

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
James Waddell, Selectman Representative  
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
Glenn Farrell  
Joe Grzybowski  
Sunny Kravitz  
Stephen LaBranche  
Brian Lapham  
Jim O'Loughlin  
Michael Pierce  
David Wood

**Excused**

Richard Reniere

**Unexcused**

Timothy Citizen Jones

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee made self-introductions.

**SAU 90**

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90, and Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90. Mr. Lunney then introduced School Board members Andrea Shepard and Rusty Bridle, David O'Connor, Principal at Hampton Academy, Timothy Lannan, Principal at Centre School, Sara Stetson, Director of Pupil Services, and Greg Limperis, Director of Technology.

**Moved** by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$20,061,260 as the 2015-16 Operating Budget for the Hampton School District.

Superintendent Murphy said this is a budget that reflects the needs of the school district. She thanked the community for their support. She noted that Centre School received the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award and Principal Lois Costa of Marston School received the Elementary Principal of the Year Award for the State of New Hampshire.

Superintendent Murphy said the SAU 90 Mission Statement focuses on children and learning. The primary mission is curriculum, instruction and assessment. Focus is also on human capital and resources. These are the teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, food service workers, etc. They are pleased with the progress which is continuing to be made in communication. Channel 13 will be up and running soon. There is a new student information system where parents can access grades, etc. The School Board takes care of governance, setting policies, etc. Regarding finance and facility, there is a philosophy of a zero-based budget. There is a big project moving forward which is a renovation at Hampton Academy. There will be a warrant article to begin this process.

At this time, Ginny Bridle, School Board Chairman, was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Lunney went through the budget. He explained the primary drivers of the default increase of \$343,195 (increase of 1.75%). Mr. Lunney said you always start with the default and build on that for the proposed budget. Items that cannot be changed are salary increases, mandates driven by the NH retirement rates which are increasing, energy costs, student transportation and health insurance. There was good news on health insurance with a \$73,000 savings for next year.

Superintendent Murphy said they are requesting the addition of a part-time Human Resources assistant at the SAU 90 office. This would be for 20 hours per week at \$18/hour. This position is very much needed due to the increased reporting, etc. that is now required. This person will also be a back up for Accounting and the Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Lunney said there is also an adjustment to salaries for the technical team. Their salaries have lagged behind other districts.

Mr. Lunney then discussed revenues.

Mr. Lunney said the warrant articles are not yet in final form, but will include in addition to the operating budget, the paraprofessional agreement, long-term maintenance, the Hampton Academy project, and Child Benefit Services (Sacred Heart).

Mr. Kravitz asked about the possibility of a community center being incorporated into one of the school buildings. Superintendent Murphy said there have been discussions on doing this in connection with the Hampton Academy renovation.

Mr. Znoj said he was very happy with this budget.

Chairman Latimer said expenses have been clearly defined and a great job has been done with this budget. Her only concern is with the part-time position. So many positions start out this way and then turn into full-time. Superintendent Murphy said she cannot predict

what may happen in the future, but she feels 20 hours a week is ample for their needs. Chairman Latimer said she will recommend this because SAU 90 has done so well. New legislation from the federal government has burdened them and she understands that.

Mr. LaBranche said he approved of the budget. It is a good one and a transparent one. Mr. O'Loughlin said he felt adding the HR position is a good idea because it will take a burden off of Superintendent Murphy and Mr. Lunney. Mr. O'Loughlin said he feels this budget is modest and reasonable. Mr. Farrell said this is the finest budget he has ever seen. Mr. Ladd congratulated Superintendent Murphy and Mr. Lunney on this budget. He said it is important to stay on top of the technology. This is our future. Mr. Ladd also said he agreed with a community center being incorporated with the redesign of Hampton Academy. Mr. Waddell said SAU 90 did an excellent job with this budget.

Mr. Waddell asked about per pupil cost. Mr. Lunney said it is \$14,813. The state average is \$14,200.

Mr. Wood said SAU 90 did a great job with this budget.

Chairman Latimer asked about the Food Service deficit. Mr. Lunney said this was primarily caused by moving the director's salary out of the regular budget and into Food Service. It may be necessary to move it back in the future.

Chairman Latimer asked about impact fees. Mr. Lunney said no impact fees will be received this year. There is presently \$120,000 that has not been drawn upon.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$20,061,260 as the 2015-2016 Operating Budget for the Hampton School District.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary